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REMARKS

Claim 1 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated in view of Schmidt '070 while claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), as being obvious in view of Heinrich '562. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised rejections in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-8, 14, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, claims 2, 3, 4, 14 and 15 are each appropriately revised, to be independent claims, and those amended independent claims are now believed to be allowable. As claims 5-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 4, as claims 10-13 depend directly from new independent claim 14, and as claims 16-19 depend directly from new independent claim 15, all of those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art of Schmidt '070 and/or Heinrich '562 is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

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The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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